Claims

1. In a storage area network (SAN) having a plurality of components including one or more digital data processors in communication with one or more storage devices, the improvement comprising:

a first platform-specific process executing on a first one of the digital data processors, the first digital data processor executing under a first operating system,

a second platform-specific process executing on a second one of the digital data processors, the second digital data processor executing under a second operating system different from the first operating system,

a common platform-independent process executing on the first and the second digital data processors,

the platform-independent process effecting execution of the first and second platform-specific processes via command line parameters.

2. In the SAN of claim 2, the further improvement wherein each of the platform-specific processes communicates with the platform-independent process via a command line interface of its respective digital data processor operating system.

3. In the SAN of claim 1, the further improvement wherein each of the first and the second operating systems can be any of a Unix™, a Windows™, Solaris, AIX operating systems.

4. In the SAN of claim 1, the further improvement comprising a manager in communication with the common platform-independent process to transmit a request thereto for information regarding one or more components of the SAN.

5. In the SAN of claim 4, wherein the common platform independent process responds to the request from the manager by invoking at least one of the first and second platform-specific processes.

6. In the SAN of claim 5, the further improvement wherein the invoked platform specific process gathers information regarding one or more SAN components and transmits the information to the Standard Output/Error of its respective digital data processor.

7. In the SAN of claim 6, the further improvement wherein the common platform independent process captures information in the Standard Output/Error transmitted by the invoked platform specific process.

8. In the SAN of claim 7, the further improvement wherein the common platform independent process transmits the captured information to the manager for further processing.

9. In the SAN of claim 4, the further improvement wherein the manager comprises a query engine for transmitting the request to the common platform independent process.

10. In the SAN of claim 9, the further improvement wherein the query engine comprises a registry identifying the common platform independent process and the digital data processors associated therewith.

11. In the SAN of claim 10, the further improvement wherein the registry provides one or more identifiers for communicating with the common platform independent process.

12. In the SAN of claim 9, the further improvement wherein the query engine formats the request in a mark-up language format.

13. In the SAN of claim 12, the further improvement wherein the mark-up language can be any of XML and HTML.

14. In the SAN of claim 13, the further improvement wherein the platform independent process formats the captured information in a mark-up language format for transmission to the manager.

15. In a storage area network having one or more components including one or more digital data processors and one or more storage devices in communication with the digital data processors, the improvement comprising:

a manager in communication with the SAN components,

a first platform-specific process executing on a first one of the digital data processors, the first digital data processor executing under a first operating system,

a second platform-specific process executing on a second one of the digital data processors, the second digital data processor executing under a second operating system different from the first platform,

a common platform-independent process executing on the first and the second digital data processors and communicating with the first and the second platform-specific processes via one or more command-line parameters,

the manager transmits a query to the common platform-independent process to request information regarding one or more of the SAN components and the platform independent process invokes at least one of the first and second platform-specific processes to obtain the requested information.

16. In the SAN of claim 15, the further improvement wherein the invoked platform specific process gathers information regarding one or more of the SAN components and transmits the information to a command line interface of its respective digital data processor operating system.

17. In the SAN of claim 16, the further improvement wherein the common platform independent process captures the information in a Standard Output/Error transmitted by the invoked platform specific process.

18. In the SAN of claim 17, the further improvement wherein the manager comprises a query engine for forwarding the query from the manager to the common platform independent process.

19. In the SAN of claim 18, the further improvement wherein the query engine comprises a registry containing information for identifying the common platform independent process and its respective digital data processors.

20. In the SAN of claim 19, the further improvement wherein the common platform independent process registers with the registry to provide identification information thereto.